**Pending cases of mercy petitions**

826. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of mercy petitions from the persons awarded death punishment received by Government during the last five year;

(b) in how many cases, death sentence has been waived/converted into the imprisonment; and

(c) what is the number of petitions still pending for consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Twenty seven mercy petitions from the condemned prisoners or others on their behalf in the fourteen criminal cases were received by the Government during the last five years;

(b) Nil.

(c) Forty (including aforesaid twenty seven) mercy petitions of the condemned prisoners have been submitted to the President of India.

**Damages caused by land mines along indo-Pak border**

827. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Common Citizens are either losing their lives or suffering disability in the Indian territory falling along Pakistan border due to not undertaking the clearing work of these land mines properly;

(b) whether it is a fact that adequate compensation has not been paid to them for damages caused due to land mines/loss of catties;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any rehabilitation scheme for residents of affected areas has been processed; and

(e) if so, what corrective measured have been taken to provide relief security to civilian population till date?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Mine laying activities are an intrinsic part of the Army's operational philosophy and are guided by operational considerations for ensuring territorial integrity. Laying of mines and- demining is carried out in

accordance with well laid down procedures. It was observed during 'Operation Parakaram' that some incidents of fatal and non fatal casualties occurred resulting in loss of life or disability due to mine related accidents in border areas. The accidents occurred due to various reasons like accidental straying into the minefields by human beings or cattle, sinking or drifting away of mines due to the nature of ground and terrain as well as environmental conditions or tugging of mines by rodents leading to their displacement from the original site.

To provide relief to the victims and their families, Government issued detailed policy guidelines to provide *'Ex-gratia* Compensation Package for Land Mine civilian casualties'. The compensation is paid as per the established procedure. No compensation is paid for loss of cattle. The *ex-gratia* compensation for land mine victims is paid as per the norms given below:—

| | |
|---|---|
| •Fatal Casualties- | Rs. 2.5 Lacs |
| •Non-Fatal Casualties | |
| -For person suffering 100% disability | -Rs. 2 Lacs |
| -For person suffering 50—100% disability | -Rs. 1.5 Lacs |
| -For person suffering below 50% disability | -Rs. 1 Lacs |

In addition, sanction has also been accorded by the Government in January, 2004 to provide artificial limbs to the victims of land mine blasts to facilitate their rehabilitation.

**Transfer of responsibility for countering terrorism from the BSF to CRPF**

828. SHRIMATI VANGAGEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made tactical changes recently, especially the transfer of responsibility for urban counter-terrorism operation from the BSF to the CRPF;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been worked out in counter-terrorism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.